

NORTHWEST AQUATIC LEAGUE - Parent/Coach Code of Conduct

Children's sports are supposed to be fun - for the children. Unfortunately, many parent, fans and coaches do not realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting emotional effect on children. Too many children are leaving sports activities because the fun is unfairly taken away by adults. This following Code of Conduct is for parents and spectators to abide by at every practice and meet.

Preamble

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

I therefore agree:

1. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the sport is for youth, not adults.
2. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
3. I will learn the rules of the sport and the policies of the league.
4. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all swimmers, coaches, officials and spectators at every meet, practice, or other sporting event.
5. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsman-like conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
6. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
7. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
8. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
9. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a race or his/her performance.
10. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.

11. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
12. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize meets and competition in the lower age groups.
13. I will promote the emotional and physical wellbeing of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
14. I will respect the officials and their authority during meets and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches or officials at the meets, and will take time to speak with them at an agreed upon time and place.
15. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
16. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during meets and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.
17. I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Verbal warning by official, head coach and/or head of league organization
 - Written warning
 - Parental meet suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organizations involved
 - Meet forfeit through the official or coach
 - Parental season suspension

I, _____ (print name) agree to follow the Swim Team Member Code of Conduct.

Signature of Parent/ Coach

Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action up to and including removal from the program.